Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 COME-00 NIC-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /091 W

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R 240744Z SEP 74 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322 INFO USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 10582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG (SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION - SAFA)

SUBJECT: OTRA (HAN SU-YIN)

NEW SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

1. NEWS OF FORMATION OF NEW SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (SAFA) IN LOS ANGELES HAS AROUSED SOME INTEREST HERE, ESPECIALLY IN AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND AMERICAN CHAMBER. CHAMBER MEMBERS HERBERT MINNICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND MELVIN SEARLS, ESSO, FRESHLY RETURNED FROM VISIT TO PRC, READ LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF PEKING VISIT FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION OF WRITER HAN SU-YIN, WHO HELPED KICK OFF SAFA CHAPTER IN LOS ANGELES. WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE TRYING TO INVITE MS. HAN TO ADDRESS CHAMBER CONCERNING SAFA ON HER WAY THROUGH HONG KONG. HOWEVER THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTACT HER IN PEKING UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 1.

2. HAN SU-YIN APPEARANCE IN HONG KONG UNDER THESE AUSPICES AND SPEAKING ON SUCH A SUBJECT (AS DISTINCT FROM A REHASH OF HER VIEWS ON CHINA) WOULD BE REGARDED AS SYMBOLIC OF A WIDER AMERICAN INTEREST IN SAFA THAN WE BELIEVE EXISTS IN FACT. IT WOULD BE SO REGARDED BY THE US WATCHERS IN HONG KONG AND WOULD PERHAPS HAVE APPEAL TO AMERICANS IF SHE COULD HINT THAT MEMBERSHIP MIGHT FACILITATE VISAS TO VISIT THE PRC. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. WE WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN DISSUADING AMCHAM FROM EXTENDING INVITATION AND COULD DO SO IN LOW KEY WAY. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNINFORMED ABOUT SAFA AND USG ATTITUDE TOWARD IT IF ANY. SINCE WE EXPECT INQUIRIES ON SAFA SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY, WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE. NEED THIS BY NOON SEPTEMBER 26 LOCAL TIME WHEN I SEE AMCHAM PRESIDENT. CROSS

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